

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An oilfield equipment identifying apparatus comprising:
 - a computer loaded with an oilfield equipment database;
 - means for inputting into the computer a unique identification code for each piece of oilfield equipment in the drill string to form a reference in the oilfield equipment database to each piece of oilfield equipment in the drill string; and
 - a drilling monitoring device receiving input signals indicative of at least one of rotating and non-rotating usage of the drill string and outputting signals to the computer wherein the computer continuously and automatically monitors the cumulative rotating usage and non-rotating usage of each piece of oilfield equipment identified in the drill string.

2. An oilfield equipment identifying apparatus comprising:
 - a computer loaded with an oilfield equipment database;
 - means for inputting into the computer a unique identification code for each piece of oilfield equipment in the drill string to form a reference in the oilfield equipment database to each piece of oilfield equipment in the drill string; and
 - means for outputting signals to the computer wherein the computer continuously and automatically monitors the cumulative rotating usage and non-rotating usage of each piece of oilfield equipment identified in the drill string.

3. A fixed mount reader for reading unique identification codes stored in passive identification tags mounted to respective pieces of oilfield equipment in a drill string such that the pieces of oilfield equipment are identified by the passive identification tags, the drill string being supported by a drilling rig having a rig floor, the fixed mount reader comprising:

- an antenna positioned in close proximity to the drill string, the antenna tuned to read the unique identification codes stored in the passive identification tags when the passive identification tags are positioned adjacent to the antenna; and

- a pipe-engaging portion engaging the respective pieces of oilfield equipment and maintaining the antenna a distance from the respective pieces of oilfield equipment while the antenna is reading the passive identification tags mounted on the respective pieces of oilfield equipment.